

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present amendment is intended to place the application in condition for allowance and is believed to overcome all of the rejections made by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has cancelled 1 - 8 and has added new claims 9 - 34, to more properly claim the present invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 9 - 34 are presented for examination.

In response to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, kindly consider the following remarks:

Claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 ("Smith").

Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 8 without acquiescence to the Examiner's reasons for rejection and respectfully submits that the rejection of those claims is thus rendered moot.

In response to Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, kindly consider the following remarks:

Claims 2 - 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 in view of Brown, U.S. Patent No. 6,173,284 ("Brown").

Applicant has canceled claim 2 - 5 without acquiescence to the Examiner's reasons for rejection and respectfully submits that the rejection of those claims is thus rendered moot.

In response to Paragraph 5 of the Office Action, kindly consider the following remarks:

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 in view of Brown, U.S. Patent No. 6,173,284 and further in view of Sparks et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,838 ("Sparks").

Applicant has canceled claim 6 and 7 without acquiescence to the Examiner's reasons for rejection and respectfully submits that the rejection of those claims is thus rendered moot.

Distinctions between New Claims and U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 to Smith et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,284 to Brown and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,222,838 to Sparks et al.

The present invention describes a method and system for rendering user interfaces for component based application programs, through which document viewer components specify requirements for their user interfaces (original specification / page 9, lines 9 – 18). For example, a document viewer component for a zoom workflow can specify that its user interface requires a text box to display a current zoom percentage, a slider to selected a desired zoom percentage, and a default zoom value (original specification / page 9, lines 4 – 7). Using the present invention, a renderer generates such a user interface using available user interface components.

Smith describes a user interface builder that enables users to associate property attributes including images, animation, sound clips and other media with states of a user interface control (Smith / col. 2, lines 43 – 35, 54, 55 and 60 – 62; col. 3, lines 55 – 59; col. 7, lines 16 – 21). Smith separates the behavioral logic of user interface controls from their visual representation (Smith / col. 3, lines 15 – 19; col. 7, lines 53 – 55). Smith describes a tool that provides a user with predefined user interface controls, each with predefined functional behavior, and enables the user to modify visual and other aspects of the controls' appearance (Smith / col. 4, lines 25 – 30).

For example, using Smith, a button control which is set to trigger turning to a new page of text when pressed may have associated with its hovering state an animation sequence comprising images of a book which give the appearance of turning pages when the images are cycled through (Smith / col. 4, lines 12 – 18).

A fundamental difference between Smith and the present invention is that whereas Smith describes a tool for associating property attributes with a given user interface control, the present invention describes components (document viewers) of an application program that specify the types of user interface controls their user interfaces require. Smith concerns design of an individual user interface control, whereas the present invention concerns rendering of a user interface with specified types of user interface controls. For example, as mentioned hereinabove, using the present invention a zoom component can specify that its user interface requires a text box to display a current zoom percentage and a slider to select a desired zoom percentage. Using Smith, on the other hand, a user can specify property attributes of a given text box or a given slider.

Brown describes a method and system for automatically monitoring police records. Sparks describes a method and system for delivering audio and data files over voice and data networks. Neither Brown nor Spark describe rendering of user interfaces.

As to new independent claim 9, applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 9 of:

"a user interface requirements specification", and

"a renderer to render a graphical user interface for the document viewer according to the user interface requirements specification"

are neither shown nor suggested in Smith, Brown or Sparks, taken individually or in combination.

Because new claims 10 - 20 depend from claim 9 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 - 20 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Smith, Brown, Sparks or a combination of Smith, Brown and Sparks.

Accordingly claims 9 - 20 are deemed to be allowable.

As to new independent claim 21, applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 21 of:

"providing a user interface requirements specification for a document viewer", and

"rendering a graphical user interface for the document viewer according to the user interface requirements specification"

are neither shown nor suggested in Smith, Brown or Sparks, taken individually or in combination.

Because new claims 22 - 34 depend from claim 21 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 22 - 34 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Smith, Brown, Sparks or a combination of Smith, Brown and Sparks.

Accordingly claims 21 - 34 are deemed to be allowable.

Support for New Claims in Original Specification

With reference to new independent claims 9 and 21: User interface components are described in the original specification at page 6, lines 17 - 20 and as element 208 in FIG. 7. A document viewer used to display or to modify documents is described in the original specification at page 6, lines 20 - 24 and as element 212 in FIG. 7. A user interface requirements description is described in the original specification at page 8, line 30 - page 9, line 7.

Regarding new dependent claims 10 and 22: A workflow manager is described in the original specification at page 9, lines 9 - 18 and as element 216 in FIG. 7.

Regarding new dependent claims 23 and 24: New and modified document viewer components are described in the original specification at page 11, line 27 - page 12, line 3.

Regarding new dependent claims 11 - 13 and 25 - 27: Buttons, sliders and edit boxes are described in the original specification at page 8, lines 22 - 24.

Regarding new dependent claims 14, 15, 28 and 29: ActiveX controls and Java applets are described in the original specification at page 8, lines 23 and 24, and at page 11, lines 11 and 12.

Regarding new dependent claims 16 and 30: Javascript is described in the original specification at page 11, lines 16 - 22.

Regarding new dependent claims 17 and 31: COM objects are described in the original specification at page 11, lines 6, 7 and 12 - 14.

Regarding new dependent claims 18, 19, 32 and 33: DCOM objects and CORBA objects are described in the original specification at page 11, lines 6 and 7.


Regarding new dependent claims 20 and 34: A DHTML browser is described in the original specification at page 7, lines 20 - 26.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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